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General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Fortieth session
Vienna, 2-12 April 2001

Provisional agenda[1]

1. Opening of the session, election of the Chairman and adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
5. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law.
6. Matters relating to:
   (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space;
   (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
7. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.

[1] In paragraph 5 of its resolution 55/122 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that the Legal Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, should consider items 3, 4, 5 and 6 as regular items of the agenda, should consider items 7 and 8 as single issues and items for discussion and should consider item 9 in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee. In paragraph 6 of the same resolution, the Assembly noted that the Subcommittee, at its fortieth session, would submit proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its forty-first session, in 2002.

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8. Consideration of the draft convention of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) on international interests in mobile equipment and the preliminary draft protocol thereto on matters specific to space property.

9. Review of the concept of the "launching State".

10. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its forty-first session.

Annotations

1. Opening of the session, election of the Chairman and adoption of the agenda

At its fortieth session, in 1997, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space reached an agreement on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.[2] In accordance with that agreement, at its forty-third session, in 2000, the Committee agreed that Vladimir Kopal (Czech Republic) should be elected Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee for the next three-year term, from 2001 to 2003.[3]

4. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space

At its thirty-ninth session, in 2000, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that discussion under this item would include the status of the treaties, review of their implementation and obstacles to their universal acceptance (A/AC.105/738, para. 111).

5. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

In the discussion of this item, member States may bring to the attention of the Legal Subcommittee any information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law. In accordance with the agreement reached at the thirty-ninth session of the Legal Subcommittee, international organizations were invited to report to the Subcommittee on their activities.

6. Matters relating to:

(a) The definition and delimitation of outer space

(b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

In paragraph 4 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly noted that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Legal Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session on the question of the character and utilization of the geostationary

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I, para. 2.

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth session, Supplement No. 20* (A/55/20), para. 12.

orbit, the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its working group on the item only to consider matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space.

8. Consideration of the draft convention of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) on international interests in mobile equipment and the preliminary draft protocol thereto on matters specific to space property

At its forty-third session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that this item would be included in the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee at its fortieth session, in 2001, as a single issue/item for discussion.[4]

9. Review of the concept of the "launching State"

In paragraph 8 of its resolution 55/122, the General Assembly noted that the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene its working group to consider this item.

In accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its forty-second session, in 1999, this item will be considered by a working group during a three-year period beginning in 2000. In 2001, the Subcommittee will review the concept of the "launching State" as contained in the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects and the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space as applied by States and international organizations.[5]

[4] Ibid., para. 166.

[5] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20 and Corr.1), para. 114.

Annex

Organization of work

1. At its thirty-ninth session, in 2000, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that a flexible organization of work should continue to serve as the basis for organizing its work with a view to making fuller use of the conference services available (A/AC.105/738, para. 9).

2. At its thirty-ninth session, in 1996, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that the practice of allocating specific agenda items to particular meetings at a session should be ended and that, to assist in their planning, member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items.[a] The Committee also agreed that agenda items should be considered consecutively and be considered closed after the list of speakers on any particular item had been exhausted and that the Chairman might propose that items be suspended to allow additional discussion at future meetings.[b]

3. At the close of the afternoon meeting on 2 April 2001, a symposium on methods of peaceful settlement of space law disputes, sponsored by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law, will be held.

4. An indicative schedule of work is given below.

Indicative schedule of work

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Week of 2-6 April 2001		
Monday, 2 April	Item 1. Opening of the session, election of the Chairman and adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chairman	Item 3. General exchange of views
	Item 3. General exchange of views	Symposium on methods of peaceful settlement of space law disputes
Tuesday, 3 April	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space	Item 4. Status and application of the five United Nations treaties on outer space
Wednesday, 4 April	Item 5. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law	Item 5. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

[a] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 169 (b).

[b] Ibid., para. 169 (c).

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Thursday, 5 April	Item 6 (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space	Item 6 (a) The definition and delimitation of outer space
	Item 6 (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit	Item 6 (b) The character and utilization of the geostationary orbit
Friday, 6 April	Item 7 Nuclear power sources	Item 7 Nuclear power sources
Week of 9-12 April 2001		
Monday, 9 April	Item 8 Consideration of the draft Unidroit convention and the draft protocol thereto	Item 8 Consideration of the draft Unidroit convention and the draft protocol thereto
Tuesday, 10 April	Item 9 Review of the concept of the "launching State"	Item 9 Review of the concept of the "launching State"
Wednesday, 11 April	Item 10 Proposals to the Committee on new agenda items	Item 10 Proposals to the Committee on new agenda items
Thursday, 12 April	Adoption of the reports of the working groups on the definition and delimitation of outer space and on the review of the concept of the "launching State"	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee